

Smart Streetlights & Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

An illustration depicting three law enforcement officers in tactical gear and helmets, positioned on a city street at night. The officer in the foreground is wearing a vest with 'CA' on it and is holding a device that is projecting a beam of light onto the license plate of a yellow car. The other two officers, one with 'ICE' and one with 'CBP' on their vests, are standing behind him. The background shows a city skyline with buildings under a dark sky.

Jacob Van Dehy (TWC)
Nancy Relaford (SURJ)
Lucky Aden (PANA)

Presentation to the San Diego Privacy Advisory Board
May 31, 2023

Source: [Link](#)

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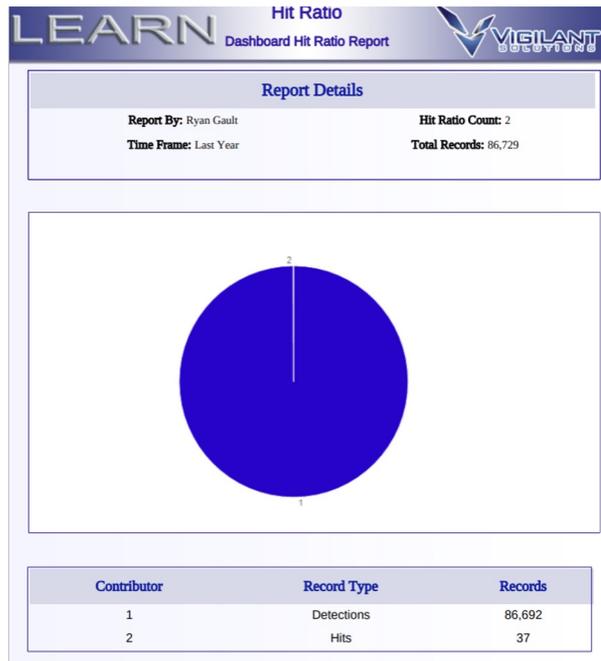
[We the People SD](#)

[Kind Hearts San Diego](#)

Overview

- The Dangers of ALPR
 - Unanswered Questions on the Ubiqquia Platform
 - Community Harms of Smart Streetlights and ALPR
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Why Communities Don't Want Automated License Plate Readers



ALPR Failure Stories

License plate reader error leads to traffic stop at gunpoint, court case

Flagged vehicle did not even match the model of what the woman was driving.

DAVID KRAVETS - 5/12/2014, 2:43 PM



US & WORLD / POLICY / TECH

Privacy advocate held at gunpoint after license plate reader database mistake, lawsuit alleges



ROBOT ERROR —

Due to license plate reader error, cop approaches innocent man, weapon in hand

Mistaking a "7" for a "2" on wanted Oldsmobile, not a BMW, leads to traffic stop.

CYRUS FARIVAR - 4/23/2014, 12:40 PM

Database

01-N010

00-01T8

93-F6L4

00-591T

Cameras can also scan in parking lots.



/ The rental car was allegedly reported as stolen

By Colin Lecher

Feb 21, 2019, 10:03 AM PST | [0 Comments](#) / [0 News](#)

Threats to Reproductive Privacy

Who's Watching Washington: Dangers of Automated License Plate Readers to Immigrant and Reproductive Rights in Washington State



DECEMBER 7, 2022



Automated License Plate Readers Threaten Abortion Access. Here's How Policymakers Can Mitigate the Risk

BY DAVE MAASS | SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

THOR BENSON SECURITY JUL 7, 2022 7:00 AM

The Danger of License Plate Readers in Post-Roe America

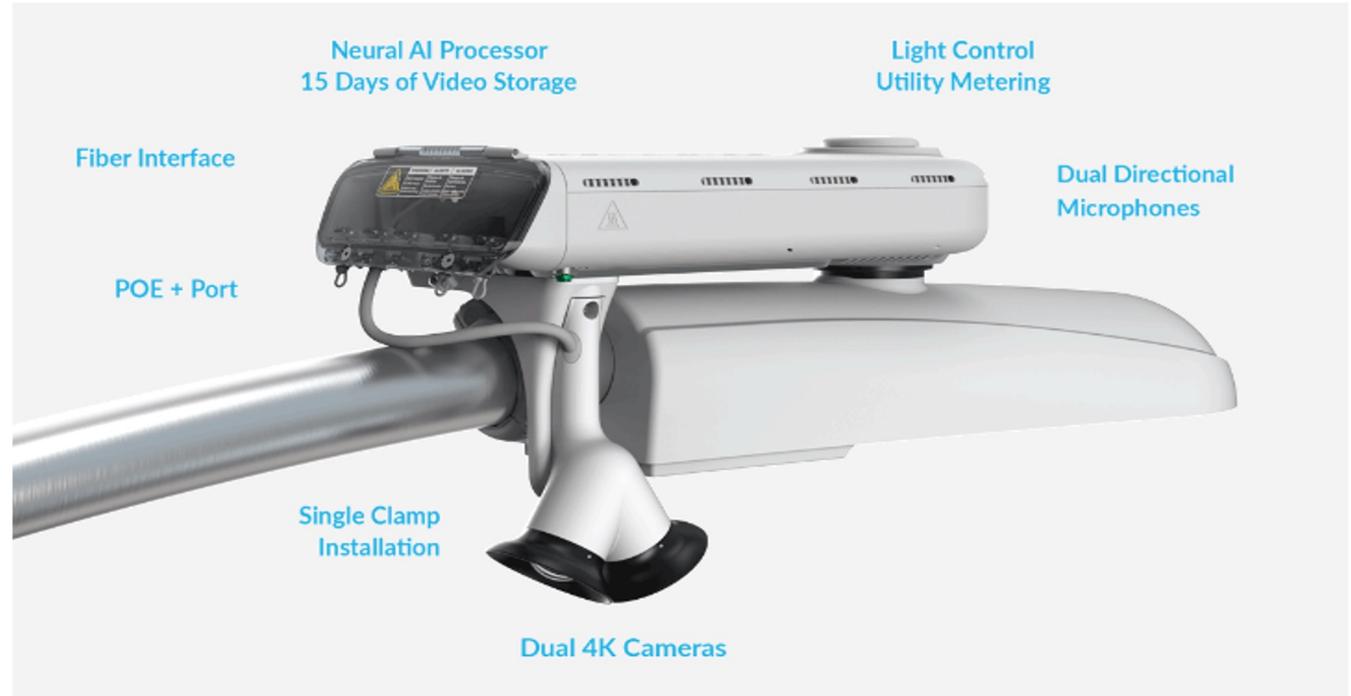
Known as ALPRs, this surveillance tech is pervasive across the US—and could soon be used by police and anti-abortion groups alike.



Learning from last streetlight scandal...



Smart Streetlight Hardware



Source: Ubicquia
presentation to
SmartCitiesWorld
conference on June
2022, from YouTube

Biased AI alerts on our streets?

Self-Learning Video Analytics

AI-based Smart Video

Letting the camera help do the work

Proactive self-learning video analytics that **help you do more with the resources that you currently have.**

Detects the movement of people and vehicles and learns patterns of "behavior".

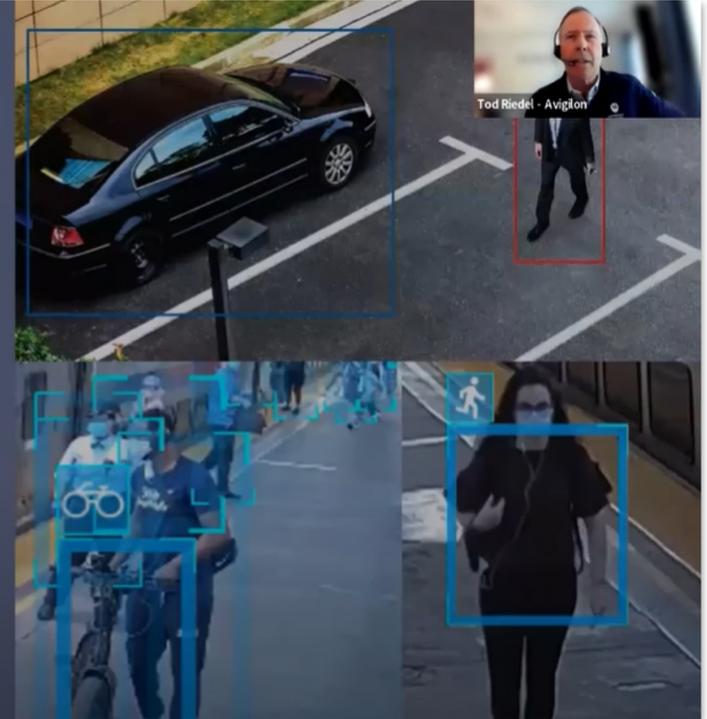
Adapts to scene changes.

People classification includes:

Adult/Child; Male/Female; Hair Color; Upper body clothing color; Lower body clothing color.

Vehicle classification includes:

Color, Sub-class - Car, Bus, Truck, Motorcycle, and Bicycle



Community Harms of ALPR/Streetlights



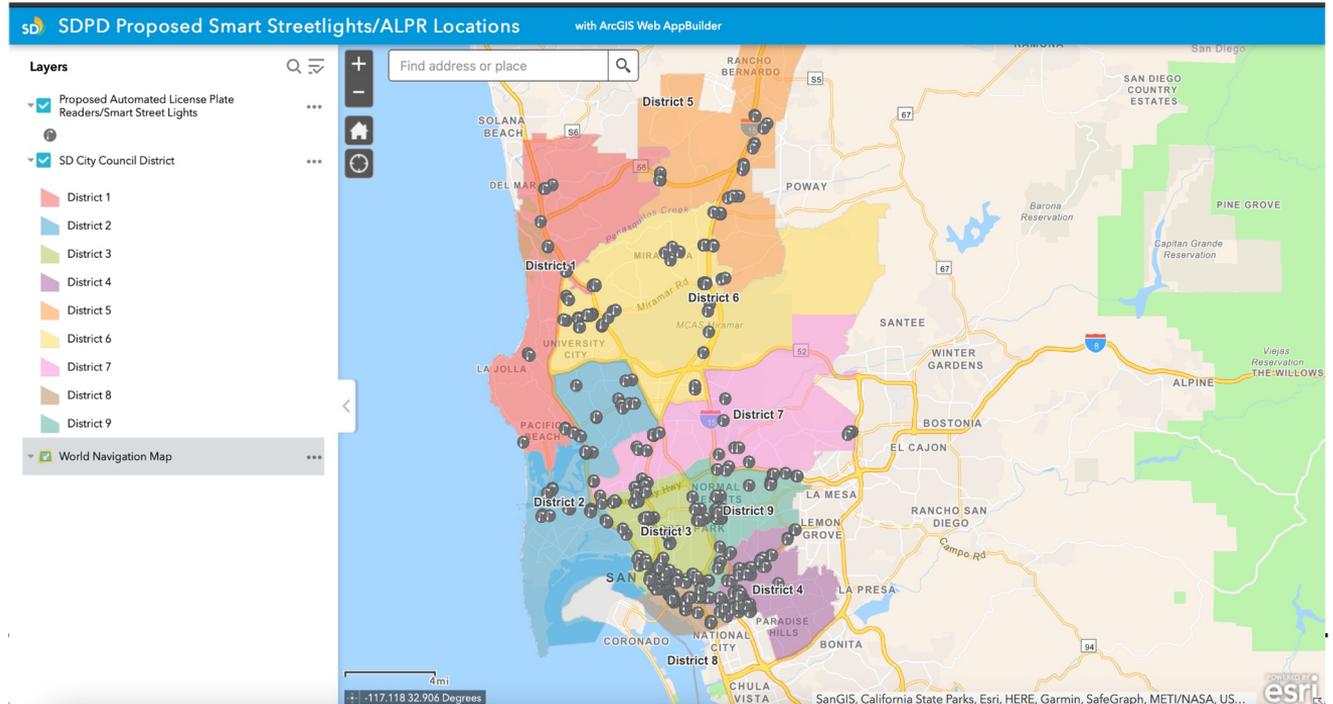
Who is being watched?

- All San Diegans
 - Anyone who travels and visits San Diego
 - Black and Brown Communities will disproportionately be under the microscope of this technology compared to other communities
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Impacts on Immigrant Communities



Impacts on Marginalized Communities



Source:
[Link](#)

Impacts on First Amendments Rights

- Police Department used streetlight footage to identify BLM protestors, violating their first amendment rights
- How do we ensure streetlights wont be used in the future to violate 1st amendment rights and criminalize protesters?



Sources:

<https://voiceofsandiego.org/2020/06/29/police-used-smart-streetlight-footage-to-investigate-protesters/>

I would feel safe in my community if ...

When we talked to people about what \$4 Million Dollars could do to prevent crime and make them feel safe they said it could be used for..

- Put up actual streetlights and make areas well lit
 - Invest in Community Violence Interrupters
 - Fund youth centers/ after school programs
 - Fund family health centers
 - Fund mental health/ social services programs
 - Fund community led organizations that are already working on lowering crime rates in their neighborhoods
-

Questions?

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TRUST-SD Coalition
